



Athletic Fields Study Committee

Town Meeting
May 13, 2014

The need for additional athletic fields in Ipswich has been determined by the Athletic Field Study Committee. These discussions have been held at public selectmen's meetings, school committee meetings, finance committee meetings, open space committee meetings, and the athletic fields study committee meetings.

The plan to build more athletic fields in Ipswich was included as an action item in the Open Space and Recreation Plan produced by the town and formally approved by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in 2013.

The Athletic Fields Study Committee has inventoried all public lands in town and assessed their suitability for development as athletics fields. This assessment identified the Ipswich School's Mile Lane Athletic Fields as the most viable candidate for new fields.

Many other non-public properties have been evaluated for their suitability for fields. To date, negotiations with private landowners have not been successful but the town continues to pursue this avenue to meeting its needs for new fields.

The current proposal at the Mile Lane fields includes building two additional lacrosse/soccer fields behind the baseball outfield fence. A new parking area would be included and would be situated between the baseball right field fence and the eastern side of the property. The exact design will be settled after the wetlands survey is accepted by the Conservation Commission.

- The existing trail used by the school's cross country teams and other recreational users will be re-routed to provide continued access to the bridge over Bull Brook.
- The existing Bay Circuit Trail trail will be re-routed to provide continued access to Willowdale State Forest
- The new fields will be natural grass and have no field lighting.

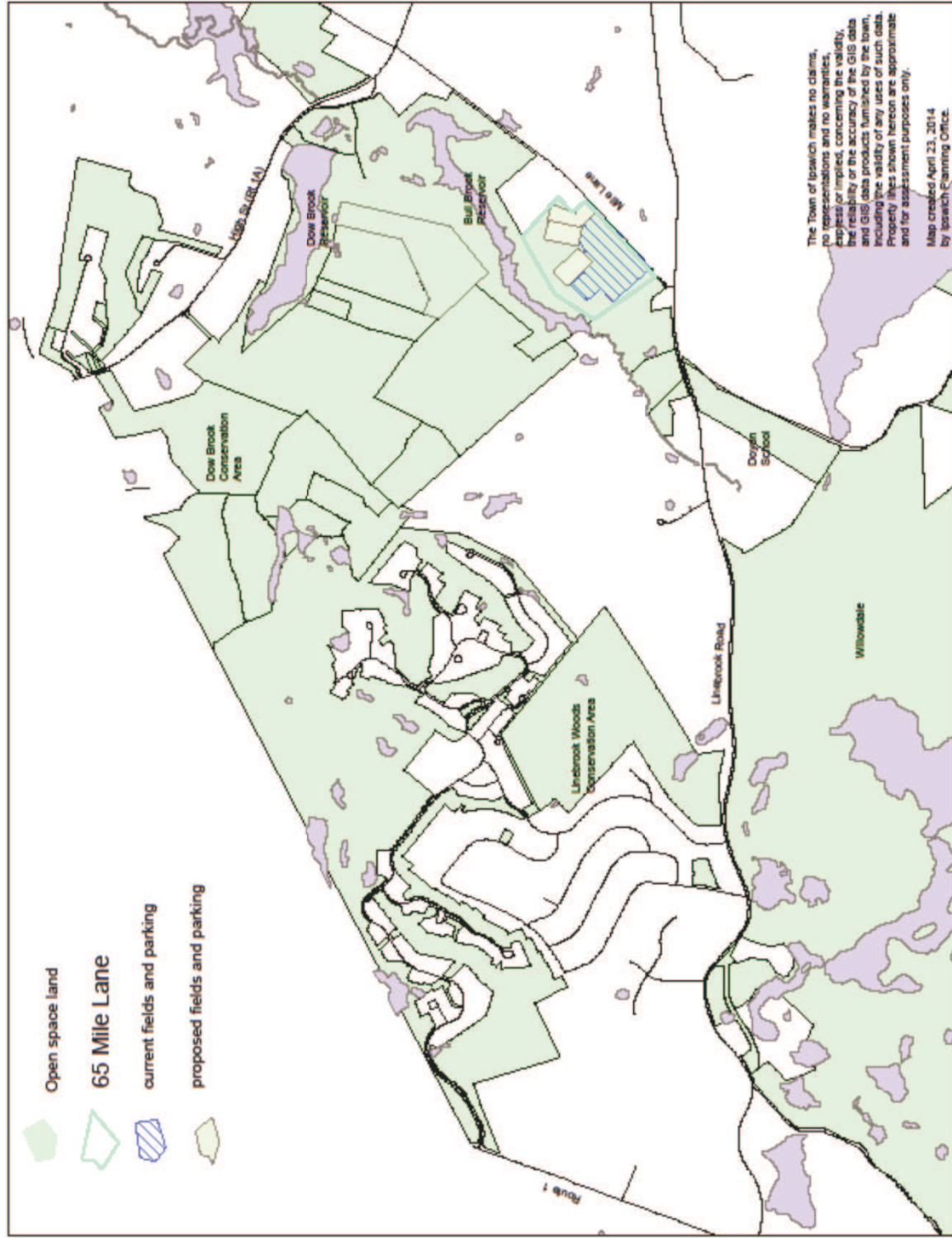
The project needs to have a site plan review by the Planning Board and a Notice of Intent (detailed project design) accepted by the Conservation Commission before anything is built.

- We will propose that the existing parking area and the proposed new parking area be paved with a pervious surface. This will eliminate the ongoing dust problems and better utilize the parking areas as the new surface would be lined for parking spots.
- The existing road frontage of the property would be restored to provide natural screening that existed previously.

The proposed new fields would be under the same restrictive integrated pest management program required for all similar properties in the water supply protection zones and will be approved and monitored by the town's Utilities Department.

- The proposed additional fields will develop another 22.6% of the property, leaving 33.7% undeveloped. The Mile Lane property in total is 27.3 acres. The current developed area (fields plus parking area) use 11.94 acres, or 43.7% of the parcel. The proposed additional fields (plus parking) would use another 6.17 acres or 22.6% of the property. That leaves 9.19 acres or 33.7% of the property as natural field, wetland, and forest.

- There are 752 acres of town-owned open space properties directly abutting the Mile Lane property—without crossing any roads (High St, Linebrook, nor Route 1). The proposed 6.17 acres to be used for the new fields equals 22% more of the Mile Lane property and 0.82% of the 752 acres of open space.



- Engineering firm Gale Associates was asked to quote the engineering costs for the detailed design in phases, contract documents, bid, and construction monitor services.
- Preliminary design-Phases 1-3, cost is \$6850. The funding for these phases was provided by the Ipswich Recreation Department. The report and plans from Gale Associates to date were paid for with this funding.

- Additional Funding Needed to complete the design and engineering for this project:
- Detailed Design through permitting - Phases 4-5, not to exceed cost is \$45,185
- Contract Documents, Bid Period Services- Phases 6-7.1, \$16,815
- Contingency: \$8000
- Total Request: \$70K

- Topsfield- Pye Brook Park
- Boxford- Haynes Field
- Wenham- Iron Rail Park
- Hamilton- Donovan Fields
- Gloucester- Magnolia Woods, New Artificial surface in stadium at GHS
- North Reading- Ipswich River Park
- North Reading- Artificial surface in stadium at NRHS
- West Newbury- Pipestave Park

- North Andover- New fields off of Dale St
- Newburyport – New field at Cherry Hill
- Newburyport – New Artificial surface at stadium at NHS
- Peabody – New Artificial surface at stadium at PHS
- Danvers- Thorpe School Fields
- Pentucket HS- New Fields